

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly,
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, the 15 Day of *April* 1708.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.



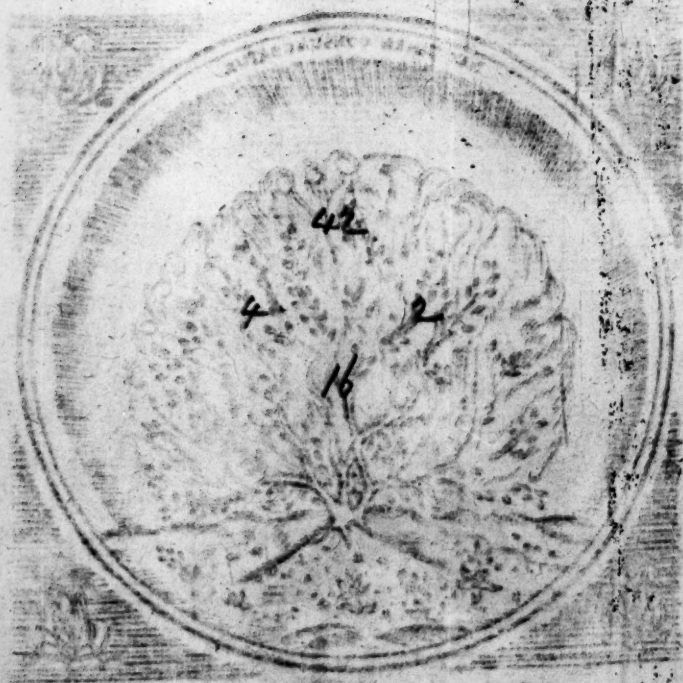
EDINBURGH,

Printed by the Reli^d of *George Mosman*, Printer to the
CHURCH and Its ASSEMBLIES. M. DCC. VIII.

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Concluded at Edinburgh, the 15 Day of April 1807.

Collection #; Material from the Records; Vol. 60-18-90



CHURCH and is a member of the M. D. C. VII.



ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly,

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND;

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh*, upon Thursday the 15th Day of *Aprile* 1708 Years, And ending the 27th Day of that same Month.

I.

The Queens Commission to David Earl of Glasgow, produced, And Ordered to be Recorded.

At *Edinburgh*, the 15th of *April*, 1708, Sess. 1.



THE General Assembly of this Church being constituted, There was produced to them by the Right Honourable *David Earl of Glasgow*, Her Majesties Commission, Sealed with the Seal, Ordained to to be kept and used in *Scotland* in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*: Appointing him Her Majesties High Commissioner, and Representative in this Assembly: Which Commission being publickly Read, with all due Honour and Respect, The General Assembly Ordained the same to be Recorded. The Tenor whereof follows.

“ **A** NNA Dei Gratia Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ & Hiber-
 “ nia Regina, Fideique Defensor, Omnibus Probris
 “ Hominibus; ad quos præsentēs Literæ Nostræ pervenerint,
 “ Salutem, *Quandoquidem* ex Decreto Nostro, Generalis Eccle-
 “ siæ *Scotiæ* Conventus, in decimum quintum diem Mensis *Aprilis*
 “ proxime futuri convenire ordinatur: Nosque autem abunde
 “ cupidæ, ac etiam necessarium esse Judicantes, in Commo-
 “ dum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut idem Generalis Ecclesiæ Conventus,
 “ die statuto debite observetur; Atque rebus magni momen-
 “ ti nos alio vocantibus, dicto Conventui, personaliter inter-
 “ esse nequimus, Et per multa Testimonia nobis abunde sa-
 “ tisfactum sit de Sufficientia & Fidelitate Fidelissimi & Dile-
 “ ctissimi Nostri Consanguinei & Consilarii *Davidis* Comitis
 “ de *Glasgow*, Nostri Thesaurarii Deputati *Scotiæ*, quoad mu-
 “ nera summi Officii infra specificati, rite exercenda & obe-
 “ unda usquequaque sit instructus & idoneus. Noveritis igitur,
 “ nos fecisse & constituisse, tenoreque præsentium facere
 “ & constituere eundem *Davidem* Comitem de *Glasgow* su-
 “ premum nostrum *Commissionarium* quoad effectum infra ex-
 “ pressum, Dando pariter & Concedendo illi plenissimam no-
 “ stram Potestatem, Commissionem & Warrantum, sacram
 “ nostram Personam & Authoritatem Regalem repræsentandi,
 “ nec non Præsentiam nostram supplendi, Locumque no-
 “ strum in dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam
 “ *Commissionario* nostro in hunc Effectum specialiter consti-
 “ tuto, Tenendi; Omniaque alia ad Imperium & Munus
 “ *Commissionarii* pro Generali Ecclesiæ Conventu, peragendi,
 “ tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet
 “ alius ejusdem summi Muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore
 “ retroacto facere potuerat, atque nos ipsæ personaliter præsen-
 “ tes facere potuerimus, *Quæ quidem* omnia & singula a dicto
 “ *Davide* Comite de *Glasgow*, in hac nostra Commissionem pro-
 “ sequenda, legitime facienda nos firmiter Approbamus, Ra-
 “ ta habemus & habituræ sumus; Omnibus & singulis insuper
 “ antedicti Conventus & Ecclesiæ Pastoribus & Presbyteris,
 “ cæterisque, quibuscunque infra Bondas *Scotiæ* Subditis, cu-
 “ juscunque Qualitatis, seu Gradus, ut dictum *Davidem* Co-
 “ mitem de *Glasgow*, tanquam supremum nostrum *Commissio-*
 “ *narium*, quoad effectum & modum supra mentionatum, ag-
 “ noscant, Revereantur, & dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant,
 “ stricte Mandamus & Imperamus: *Et denique* hanc nostram
 “ Commissionem a dict. decimo quinto die Mensis *Aprilis*,
 “ ac deinceps hac sequenti Sessione dicti Generalis Conventus
 “ in vigore continuare declaramus, & usque dum a nobis re-
 “ vocabitur & exonerabitur. *In cujus rei Testimonium* præsen-
 “ tibus Sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodien-
 “ dum, & in *Scotiæ* utendum ordinatum vice & loco magni
 “ Sigilli

"Sigilli Scotia appendi mandavimus, Apud Aulam nostram
"de St. James's, vigesimo quinto die Mensis Martii, Anno
"Domini Millesimo Septingentesimo Octavo, & Anno Regni
"nostri, Septimo.

Per Signaturam, Manu S. D. N. Regina superscriptam.

} Locus }
} Magni }
} Sigilli }
} Appensi }

IN DORSO.

*Written to the Great Seal, and
Registered the Fourteenth Day
of April 1708. Sic subscribitur
Charles Ker.*

*Sealed at Edinburgh, the
Fourteenth Day of April
1708 Years. In Absence of
Mr. Archibald Ogilvie.
Sic subscribitur Jo. Stewart
art Deput.*

I I.

Her Majesties Gracious Letter

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Eadem Sessione.

HER Majesties High Commissioner, presented the
Queens most Gracious Letter, directed to this General
Assembly, which was publickly Read, with all due Honour
and Respect, and is appointed to be Recorded in the Regi-
sters of this Assembly. The Tenor whereof follows.

B

ANNE R.

ANNE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well Beloved, We Greet you well; The full and Satisfactory Accounts we have had of your good Conduct and prudent Management in the last and former Assemblies, gives us full Confidence of your meeting now in the same good Disposition, and that you will improve this opportunity, to do what may be further necessary, for promoting Religion, discouraging Prophaneness and Immorality; And preventing the growth of Popery. For these ends, We recommend to You to continue your care for providing for such Churches, as are still Vacant with Pious and Learned Ministers, in which you shall not want our Concurrence and Assistance: We have again chosen our Right Trusty and entirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellor, *David Earl of Glasgow*, to be our Commissioner and to Represent our Royal Person in this Assembly; And as we have sufficient experience of his Fidelity to us, and of his Ability and firmness to discharge this Trust, so we know that he is acceptable to you, we have fully Instructed him in all things we think needfull: And therefore, you may give him entire Trust, and Credit, We cannot but acknowledge our satisfaction with the Zeal and Affection the Ministers have shown at this Juncture to our Person and Government, upon the appearance of an Invasion by our Enemies; And we doubt not of your being all in the same good Disposition, and that ye will encourage the People in their Loyalty to us, and in Abhorrence of this Design, which will subvert our Religion, and all that is dear to us: We again assure you of our firm Resolution, to Maintain the Government of the Church of *Scotland*, as it is by Law Established: And to protect you in the free enjoyment of all the Rights and Priviledges that by Law you are possessed of: And not doubting, but you will Act in such a manner in this Assembly, as that we shall have new Reasons to be satisfied with you, We bid you heartily farewell.

Given at our Court at St. James's the 16th Day of April 1708, and of our Reign the Seventh Year.

By Her Majesties Command,

DAVID NAIRN.

III. The

I I I.

The General Assemblys *Answer,*
T O
The Queens Gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, 17th of Aprile 1708. Sess. 3d.

May it please your Majesty,

WE Received your Gracious Letter, with all Dutyfull Respect, to our great Joy and Satisfaction; And we should be unaccountably defective in Gratitude, as well as Duty to your Majesty, if we had not all the good Disposition to manage our selves answerably to what Your Majesty expects, and is pleased to recommend to us. We look upon it as a signal Blessing, which we earnestly Pray God may long continue to us; That we have a Sovereign upon the Throne that doth so constantly Excite and Encourage Us to a Zealous Concern for true Religion, and for preventing the Growth of *Popery*, and discouraging Profaneness and Immorality, Which we hope shall ever more and more oblige Us in our Stations, & by all Methods proper for us to make the best Improvement of the present Opportunity, which the late Circumstances we were in, do make so valuable, for Promoting pure Christianity and a Holy Practice, and possessing all that we have any Influence upon, with a just abhorrence of *Popery*, and all its Errors and Superstitions, for the effectual suppressing whereof, we must and do still rely upon your Majesties Royal Authority, to cause put the good Laws against the same to due Execution; A pious, learned, and faithful Ministry is under God, the Great Support of our Holy Faith; And so necessary a Mean for the Advancing of the Great End of the Gospel, that we are resolved through Divine Assistance to continue our Endeavours, to which your Majesty doth so Religiously Encourage Us, to have all Vacancies planted with such a Ministry, being perswaded that your Majesty in your Royal Wisdom will be careful to Discourage the Opposition made to us, in several places, by some that are not more Dissaffected to our Church Constitution, than to your Majesties Royal Person and Government. We have

have had such Proofs of the Sufficiency, Firm Loyalty to your Majesty, and good Affection to this Church of the Earl of *Glasgow*, That as he is most acceptable to Us, so we with all Thankfulness acknowledge the obliging Proof that your Majesty hath given of a kind regard to Us in honouring this Assembly, with such a Representative of your Royal Person, to whom we shall give that entire Trust and Credit which your Majesty requires. It cannot but animate our Zeal for your Majesties Person and Government, that you are pleased to take notice, with so much Goodness, of the Affection and Loyalty shewn by the Ministers of this Church in the late Juncture, of the Appearance of an Invasion from your Majesties Enemies, when certainly it was their Duty, and their plain and visible Interest to Oppose and Witness against an Attempt so injurious to your Majesty and your Royal Crown and Dignity, and so destructive to our Peace, and our Religion and Liberties, and that threatened no less than the involving your Majesties Dominions in Confusion and Ruine; And therefore we find our selves obliged under the most Sacred Tyes of Duty and Gratitude to your Majesty, our only Rightfull and Lawful Sovereign to Encourage more and more the people under our care in their Loyalty to your Majesty, and firm adherence to the present happy Establishment. The renewed Assurance which your Majesty is pleased to give of your firm Resolution to maintain the Presbyterian Government of this Church as by Law Established, and to Protect us in the Enjoyment of all our Rights and Privileges is to us most acceptable, and shall ever be obliging upon us to manage our selves so, as to witness our sincere and deep Resentment of this Blessing of your Royal Favour. That, the God of Heaven may prevent your Majesty always with the best Blessings of his Goodness, and ever guide your Majesty by His Counsel, till after a long and happy Reign upon Earth, He Crown you with Glory in Heaven; Is the Earnest Prayer of

May it please your Majesty,

*Your Majesties most Faithful, most
Obedient and most Humble Subjects,*

*The Ministers and Elders, met in this
National Assembly of the Church of
Scotland.*

*Signed in Our Presence, in Our Name,
and at Our Appointment, By*

W. Carstairs Moderator.

IV. At

I V.

Act against Popery.

At Edinburgh 20 April 1708. Sess. 5.

THE General Assembly having under Consideration what was represented to them, by Brethren from diverse Corners of this Church, of the Growth of Popery, and what may be the dangerous Consequences thereof to the Church and Protestant Religion: Do seriously and earnestly recommend to Ministers of the Gospel, that in their Sermons and Catechisings of the people under their Charge, they use all due Care and Diligence in Informing them of the abominable Errors of the Church of Rome, and instructing them in the Truths of the Reformed Religion, and faithfully warning them of their Danger from Popery.

V.

T O

The QUEENS most Excellent Majesty;

The most Humble, Faithful and most Dutiful Address of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

At Edinburgh, 23 April, 1708, Post Merid. Sess. 9.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE your Majesties most Faithful and most Loyal Subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of this Church have had so many Marks of your Royal Favour, and are so happy in having such a Sovereign, that we should be Enemies to our selves and regardless of all that ought to be dear to us, as Men and as Christians, as well as unaccountably undutiful to your Majesty; If we were not earnest in our Prayers to God, for your Majesties Preservation, and for the Stability of your Throne, and if we had not the utmost abhorrence of the late, no less bold than mischie-

C

vous

vous Attempt, that was made by the *French* Monarch to Invade this Kingdom, with an armed Force, on design to assist a *Popish* Pretender, in Usurping the Sovereignty of your Majesties Kingdoms, which you Govern by a most unquestionable Title, a Title that we in our Stations, and by all Means proper for us, are resolved ever to maintain, with a firm and unbyassed Zeal

We both admire, and thankfully acknowledge the wonderful Goodness of the over-ruling God, in confounding the Contrivances of your Majesties declared Enemy, against your Royal Person and Government, and for the Subversion of the Reformed Religion, and of the civil Liberties not only of these Nations, but of *Europe*.

As we tremble at the Thoughts of the Calamities and bloody Confusions, that we were upon the brink of being involved in; So we shall ever preserve a thankfull Remembrance of the seasonable Disappointment of our too well grounded Fears, which under the merciful God we owe to your Majesties Wise Conduct, the Watchful and Prudent Care of his Royal Highness the Lord high Admiral, and the Fidelity and Diligence of those that were employed by your Majesty for our Defence and Safety by Sea and Land.

Whatever Encouragement, MADAM, that *French* and *Popish* Enemy might have had from this part of *Britain*, or else where; We for our part cheerfully imbrace this Opportunity of declaring to the World, that all of the Communion of this Church, are so sensible of the Blessings that by the Divine Favour they enjoy, under the Government of your Majesty, their only Rightful and Lawful Sovereign, and of the many Advantages of the late happy Revolution, of which the Settling the Crown upon your Majesty and Protestant Successors, is none of the least; They have so great a Concern for the Protestant Interest, and such an Abhorrence of *Papery* and *Tyranny*, and know so well the many dismal and lamentable Instances of *French* Government, that they have an equal Detestation of the Counsels of *Versailles*, and Pretensions of *St. Germans*.

That all Attempts against your Royal Person and Government may have no other effect than the firmer Establishment of your Throne, the greater security of the Protestant Succession, and a deeper sense in your Subjects of the Happiness they enjoy under Your Majesty's Wise Administration, and that such Success may attend your Majesty's Arms, and these of your Allies, as shall set just Limits to the Exorbitant Power of *France*, give a solid and lasting Peace to *Europe*, and a Comfortable Relief and Security, by the Favour of GOD, to all

all the Protestant Churches at Home and Abroad: And that the Gracious GOD, may ever guide your Majesty by His Counsel, till after a long and happy Reign upon Earth, He Crown You with Glory in Heaven, shall be the earnest Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesties most Faithful, most Obedient, and most Humble Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders, met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in Our Presence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment, By

W. Carstairs Moderator.

V I.

Act for suppressing Schism and Disorders in the Church.

Edinburgh 23 April 1708. Post meridiem.

THE General Assembly finding that there are several disorderly practices in sundry parts of this Church, to the great dishonour of GOD, and prejudice of the Church; Therefore they strictly enjoin and peremptorily appoint all the Presbyteries and Synods to take particular notice of all their Members, Preachers, or Others under their Inspection, and if they find any Ministers or Others to fall into Irregularities or Schismatical Courses, that they duely call them to an Account, and Censure them according to the merit of their Fault, even to Deposition of Ministers and Elders, and to apply to the Commission for their Advice, as they shall see cause, and Report their Diligence herein to the next Assembly: And in particular the General Assembly hereby refers the Disorders and Schismatical Courses of Mr. James Forquhar Minister at Tyrie, and Mr. John Mcneilie Probationer entirely to the Commission to be appointed by this Assembly, hereby empowering the said Commission to call these

these persons before them, and to censure them as they shall be found to deserve.

V I I.

Act, concerning a Solemn National Thanksgiving.

At Edinburgh 24 April 1708.

THE General Assembly of this National Church, considering what a surprising Deliverance the Gracious GOD hath been pleased in His Infinite Goodness to bestow upon Us in this Land, in particular, from a threatened Invasion of cruel Enemies, whereby according to the unchangeable course of Popery and Tyranny, by which this Invasion was managed, we were inevitably to lay our Account, not only with the scattering of our Families, and spoiling of our Goods; But also the violent Invading of our Persons and Consciences, by Methods of Cruelty worse than Fire and Fagot, as the known Massacres of *Paris*, in the Year one Thousand five Hundred Seventy two, and of the Protestants in *Ireland*, in the Year one Thousand six Hundred Fourty one, and the continued Cruelties used against the Protestants in *France*, especially since the Year one Thousand six Hundred Eighty five, can testify and witness to the World; And that GOD did thus graciously appear for us when we were unworthy of the least kind Regard from him, being a people laden with Iniquity, and that have not rendered unto GOD according to His Benefits, We from a dutiful Sense of this signal Care, and seasonable Appearance of Divine Providence for this Church and Nation, cannot but look upon it as our Duty, to lift up our Souls in Blessing the GOD of our Salvation for this and all His other Wonders of Mercy, that He hath wrought for this Church and Nation, and to call all persons in this National Church, to give to the Infinitely Wise GOD the Glory of His free Goodness, taking Shame and Confusion of Face to our selves, because of our highly aggravated Iniquities, and searching and trying our Ways, and turning again to the LORD, from whom we have deeply revolted, Repentance, Reformation, and shewing Mercy to the poor, being the best Evidences of Thankfulness for the great Mercies of the Infinitely Holy GOD, and the only way to secure a continuance of our Blessings. The General Assembly doth likewise call and seriously exhort all persons of this Church to joyn with their Thanksgiving, earnest Prayers to GOD, that He would turn us to Himself in His dear Son our only Propitiation, and to one another in Ways of Truth, Justice, and

and Holiness, that He would Bless and Preserve our gracious Queen, in whose Life under Him our Peace and Safety are so much bound up, that he would graciously direct all her Councils, and give such Success to her Arms. and those of her Allies by Sea and Land, against the common Enemy, as shall through his Blessing, bring these desolating Wars to an end, that shall be for his own Glory, and the Comfort and Joy of all sincere Lovers of Truth and Righteousness: That He would preserve His Gospel to us in its Purity, while Sun and Moon endure: That He would Compassionate our distressed Protestant Brethren abroad, and deliver them from the Oppression of their cruel Enemies: That GOD would assist the Ministers and other members of this Church, and Judicatories thereof, to acquit themselves so Faithfully to GOD, and Dutifully towards her Majesties Person and Government, as may more and more engage her Majesty to be propitious and favourable to this Church, in its Worship, Discipline and Government, and give all Encouragement to the orderly Exercise thereof, in its several Judicatories: That He would in His Compassion give seasonable Weather, and Crown the Year with His Mercy: And above all, that He would give us Grace to fear Him and His Goodness, inclining our Hearts to obey His Voice, that He may not be provoked to turn and do us Hurt, after all the great Good He hath done us. And the General Assembly appoints the said Thanksgiving to be observed in all the Parishes within this National Church, upon the first Thursday of *June* next, being the third day of that Month.

V I I I.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for considering and discussing several Affairs referred to them.

At Edinburgh 26 April 1708. Post Meridiem. Sess. 12

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration, that there are several weighty Affairs which they cannot overtake; Do therefore Nominate and Appoint their Reverend Brethren, Masters *William Carstairs* Principal of the Colledge of *Edinburgh* Moderator, *William Calderwood* at *Ligerwood*, *Thomas Verner* at *Balmaclellan*, *Hugh Campbell* at *Muirkirk*, *Patrick Simpson* at *Renfrew*, *Duncan Campbell* at *Knapdale*, *William Mitchel* at *Dundee*, *William Crichton* at *Edinburgh*, *John Law* there, *George Meldrum* Professor of Divinity in the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, *George Hamilton* at *Edinburgh*, *Alexander Lauder* at *Mordingtoun*, *Robert Park*

Park at Fouldoun, *Thomas Anderson* at Edrom, *Laurence Johnston* at Dunse, *John Campbel* at Cranshaws, *James Ker* at Nenthorn, *Robert Liver* at Merton, *James Ramsay* at Kelfo, *William Baxter* at Ednam, *Daniel McKay* at Jedburgh, *Alexander Colden* at Oxnam, *Robert Bell* at Cavers, *Archbald Deans* at Bouden, *Thomas Boston* at Etrick, *John Laurie* at Eithsdale, *James Howie* at Annan, *James Murray* at St. Mungo, *Samuel Telfer* at Johnstoun, *George Young* at Hutton, *Thomas Laurie* at Closburn, *Simon Riddel* at Tinrom, *James Guthrie* at Irongray, *John Henderson* at Kirkmahoe, *John McMurdo* at Torthorwald, *William Boyd* at Dalry, *Samuel Spalding* at Partron, *William Clark* at Twynam, *Thomas Ker* at Wigton, *Thomas Elder* at Whithorn, *Robert Ferguson* at Calmonel, *Walter Laurie* at Stranraver, *James Gilchrist* at Kirkmichael, *William Lindsay* at Dundonald, *John Hunter* at Air, *Andrew Roger* at Galston, *John Laurie* at Auchinleck, *John Glasgow* at Kilbirnie, *Francis Finlayson* at Kilmarnock, *Alexander Cunningham* at Dreghorn, *Robert Johnston* at Kilbarchan, *Robert Wodrow* at Eastwood, *John Miller* at Neillston, *Robert Wylie* at Hamilton, *Archbald Hamilton* at Cambuslang, *Francis Borland* at Glasford, *John Stirling* Principal of the Colledge of Glasgow, *James Brown* at Glasgow, *James Stirling* at Baronykirk, *David Ewing* at Calder, *Thomas Linning* at Lesmahago, *James Garthshore* at Carmichael, *John Good* at Carnwath, *John Ritchie* at Oldkilpatrick, *Robert Wallace* at Badernoch, *Daniel Gilchrist* at Luss, *Daniel McLaurin* at Kilfinan, *John Campbel* at Kilmoden, *Daniel Campbel* at Kilmichael of Glasfary, *Alexander Campbel* at Inverary, *James Boes* at Campbleton, *John Campbel* at Kilchalmannel, *Neil Campbel* at Kilmalie, *Daniel Morison* at Kilbranden, *Daniel McAlay* at Kilmorie, *Martine Mcpherson* at Kilbridie, *James Gray* at Kinloch, *John Halket* at Kepath, *David Shaw* at Aberdalgie, *David Meldrum* at Tippermuir, *George Blair* at Perth, *George Blaikie* at Rogorton, *Robert Gourley* at Tillicultrie, *Arthur Forbes* at Port, *James Brisbane* at Stirline, *John Warden* at Gargunnock, *Archbald Moncreif* at Blackford, *William Haly* at Muthill, *Samuel Charters* at Inverkeithing, *Robert McGill* at Kilnoss, *John Gibb* at Cleish, *Andrew Wardroper* at Ballingry, *Joseph Drew* at Markinch, *James Grierson* at Weems, *William Greenlees* at Couper, *Thomas Halyburton* at Cyres, *William Pitcairn* at Colestie, *Andrew Melvil* at Monymail, *James Hadow* Principal of the New Colledge of St. Andrews, *William Hardie* at St. Andrews, *William Moncreif* at Largo, *Walter Wilson* at Kilconquer, *Robert Clelland* at Kilrenie, *William Miller* at Meegle, *William Stewart* at Blairgoury, *Walter Ainslie* at Lundie, *James Mar* at Muirhouse, *Hugh Maxwell* at Telline, *James Forsyth* at Craig, *James Ker* at Dun, *Andrew Bruce* at Inverkeeller, *David Ramsay* at Fettercairn, *Andrew Honyman* at Kenneff, *James Robert-*

Robertson at Glenmuick, James Douglass at Aboyn, James Osburn Professour of Divinity in the Colledge of Aberdeen, Colten Campbel at Aberdeen, David Corss at Old Macher, William Lesly at Chappel of Garrioch, James Gordon at Primna, Robert Udnie at Logie Buchan, Andrew Guthrie at Peterhead, Peter Darline at Boyndie, John Turren at Drumblait, John Gilchrist at Keith, James Chapman at Cromdale, David Dalrymple at Dundarvas, James Thomson at Elgine, Alexander Anderson at Duffus, Charles Primrose at Forrester, Robert Baillie at Inverness, George Gordon at Cromerty, Hugh Duff at Ferne, Archbald Bowie at Dornoch, William Innes at Tharso, John Monro at Rae, Thomas Baikie at Kirkwall, James Sands at Birsay, Alexander Nisbet at Shapinsbay, George Duncan at Walles in Zetland, James Grierton at Dingwall there, Thomas Wilkie in Canongate, David Blair in Edinburgh, William Wiseheart there, William Mitchel at Canongate, Samuel Semple at Libertoun, George Barclay at Uphall, Thomas Miller at Kirklistoun, John Smith at Livingstoun, John Steedman at Dalmeny, John Sandilands at Dalphingstoun, John Murray at Skirtline, William Russel at Stone, James Robertson at Ecclestoun, Patrick Cuming at Ormiston, Matthew Selkrig at Crighstoun, David Walker at Temple, Matthew Reid at Northberwick, Robert Horseburgh at Saltreestoun, Matthew Simpson at Pancaitland, George Turnbull at Tynninghame, and Henry Robertson at Old Hamstocks Ministers. William Marquiss of Lothian, John Earl of Rothes, William Earl of Kilmarnock, John Earl of Ruglen, Patrick Earl of Marchmont, James Earl of Seafeld, John Earl of Hynsford, David Earl of Glasgow, Charles Lord Tester, William Lord Strathnaver, Patrick Lord Polwarth, James Lord Carmichael, William Lord Forbes, William Lord Ross, Robert Lord Burleigh, Sir Hugh Dalrymple of Northberwick Lord President of the Session, Sir James Stewart Lord Advocat, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston Lord Justice Clerk, Sir John Maxwell of Pollock, Sir Robert Stewart of Tillicultry, Sir Gilbert Eliot of Minto, Sir Alexander Ogilvy of Forglen, Mr. John Murray of Bowhill Five of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Mr. John Campbel of Mamore Brother German to the late Duke of Argyle, Mr. Francis Montgomery of Giffan Uncle to the Earl of Eglintoun, Lieutenant Colonel John Erskine of Carnock Son to the deceased Lord Cardross, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, George Pringle of Greenknow, Sir John Pringle of Stitchel, George Baillie of Jerviswood, Mr. James Gellie Advocate, William Eliot of Arclestoun, Sir Thomas Kilpatrick of Closeburn, Sir Hugh Cuninghame of Craigend, Lieutenant Colonel William Maxwell of Cardonefs, Mr. John Mackaul, Mr. James Boswal of Auchinleck, Sir David Stewart of Cult-

ness,

ness, John Alexander of *Blackhouse*, Mr. Walter Stewart Advocate, Robert Roger Provost of *Glasgow*, Hugh Montgomerie of *Busbie*, Sir James Smollet of *Bonhill*, John Cunningham of *Ballendalloch*, Sir James Campbel of *Auchinbreck*, Sir Colin Campbel of *Arkindlass*, James Campbel of *Arkindlass* younger Sir James Campbel of *Aberuchil*, William Austine Dean of Gild of *Perth*, Mr. Alexander Abercromby of *Tillibody*, Lieutenant Collonel John Erskine Deputy Governour of *Stirling Castle*, Mr. Robert White of *Bennochie*, George Monerief of *Reedie*, Captain Robert Nairn, Sir David Carnagie of *Pittarro*, John Scrimzeour of *Kirtoun* George Warrander of *Bruntfield*, Arthur Forbes of *Eicht*, John Gordon Provost of *Aberdeen*, Ludovick Grant of that Ilk Elder, Alexander Grant of that Ilk Younger, William Duff of *Diple*, Captain John Grant of *Easter Elcheis*, William Grant of *Delay*, James Brodie of *Whitehil*, Mr. William Brody Advocate, Sir Robert Monro of *Foulis*, Sir William Gordon of *Dalsfoly*, Mr. John Mitchel of *Westshore*, Sir Samuel Macklellan Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, Sir Walter Pringle Advocate, Sir John Clerk of *Pennycook*, Sir William Meinzie of *Gladstones*, William Baillie of *Lamington*, Mr. James Hamiltoun of *Pancatland*, Sir George Home of *Kello*, Sir James Agnew of *Lochnaw*, Adam Brown late Dean of Gild of *Edinburgh*, Walter Stewart of *Pardivan* and Robert Maxwel of *Skelloch* Ruling Elders; To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect aftermentioned, with full power to the saids Persons or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Twenty one of the saids Commissioners, whercof Fifteen are alwayes to be Ministers, to meet and conven within the Assembly House at *Edinburgh*, the first day after the Dissolution of this Assembly at Ten Hours in the Forenoon, and afterwards the first Wednesday of *July*, last Wednesday of *September*, first Wednesday of *December*, and first Wednesday of *March* next; and oftner when and where they shall think needful and convenient, with Power to the said Commission to chuse their own Moderator; And sikklike the General Assembly fully Impowers and Authorises their saids Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, to Cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them by any Act or Order of this Assembly, except it be otherwayes restricted, and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions to be given to them by this Assembly, and to advert unto the Interest of the Church on every occasion, That the Church and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice, which they can prevent, as they will be Answerable, providing this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Presbyters and Synods, that are of universal Con-

Concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed or referred to them as abovementioned, and in all their Actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitutions of this Church, and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, Declaring that in and for all their Actings they shall be Comptable to, and Censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause, and this Commission is to continue and endure till the next General Assembly, and Members are required to attend the Dyets of the Commission, and the Absents ordered to be noticed according to the Seventeenth Act of the Assembly, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Six. And for the better attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibites the Presbyteries of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within Twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Dayes appointed for the Meetings of the Commission.

IX.

Instructions to the Commission of the General Assembly. Sess. 12.

At Edinburgh the 26th Day of April 1708.

THAT the Commission, as often as they shall see Cause, Apply to the Government, or any Magistrate for their countenancing of, and concurring with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows, and for putting in Execution the Laws against Popery and Prophaneness, and seeking Redress of Grievances and Abuses and Disorders committed contrary to the Established Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Presbyterian Government of this Church, the contempt of the Censures of the Judicatories thereof Inflicted on Scandalous Persons, settling Vacant Churches, regulating the Poor, by using endeavours, for providing Maintenance and Labour for them.

2. That when any of the Ministers, who served under the late Prelacy, whose Lives and Doctrine, may render them useful to this Church, shall apply for Reception unto a share of the Government thereof; The General Assembly do hereby Impower and Recommend to their Commission, to receive them according to the 13th Paragraph of the 16 Act of the General Assembly *anno* 1697, And that the foresaid Commission be carfull to get due Information from the Presbyteries, where these Persons Applying, did, or do Officiate and for the time reside.

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3. That

3. That the said Commission use their utmost Diligence, for getting payment of the Money gifted by the Queens Majesty, for defraying the publick Charges of the Church, and in disposing thereof, they are to take care that the publick Debts of the Church be first payed, according to the Instructions given to the Commission of the General Assembly *anno* 1706 thereanent, which is hereby renewed, and that the Encouragement granted by the General Assembly, *Anno* 1699, to Ministers and Probationers who go *North*, or to the *Highlands* and *Islands* to preach, be rendered effectual, and likewise that the said Commission cause defray the extraordinary Charges and Expences, that Presbyteries and Ministers have been at, particularly in these places, in carrying on the planting of Churches and other publick Affairs of the Church there.

4. The forsaide Commission are hereby Impowered, to Cognosce and finally Determine in all References already made, or to be made to them by this Assembly, and in References and Appeals for Transporting Ministers to the *North*, the *Highlands*, and *Islands*, which shall be brought before them, according to the Overtures made thereanent *anno* 1699, and that Transportations to any Parishes in these places, whether privileged by former Acts of Assembly, or not, be carried on, and that in the most expedite Way, providing that the Commission do not meddle with Sentences of Synods, excepting Causes particularly referred to them.

5. The said Commission is to apply to Her Majesty, for the civil Sanction to Fasts and Thanksgivings, as occasion requires, and to specify the Causes thereof.

6. The said Commission are impowered to give Advice and Assistance to any Synod or Presbytrie in difficult cases, as they shall be applyed unto by them for that effect.

7. The said Commission are impowered to give all due Assistance and Encouragement to any Proposals that may be made to them, about Endeavours for Reformation of Manners, for the effectual Curbing and Suppressing of Profaneness and Vice.

8. The Commission are appointed to take special care, to keep and maintain Unity in the Church upon all Emergents, especially among the Ministers thereof, and to gain such as separate therefrom, and to suppress Error and Schism in this Church, and prosecute the Authors and Spreaders of Books and Pamphlets tending thereto, as is by other Acts recommended to Presbyteries, and to take notice, how any who have been censured by preceeding Assemblies, or Commissions thereof, have carried, and to proceed to further Censure, as the said Commission shall see cause. And further, the General Assembly does hereby renew the first Paragraph of the 18th Act of the General Assembly 1706, concerning Schism
and

and Disorders, and appoints the same to stand as an Instruction to this Commission.

9. That the Commission endeavour to make effectual, whatever hath been by this and preceeding Assemblies agreed upon, concerning the Erecting of Schools in the *North*, the *Highlands*, and *Islands*, and what else may tend to the Advancement of Religion and Reformation in these places, as also to give all due Assistance and Encouragement to any Proposals may be made for propogating the Knowledge of GOD and Our LORD JESUS CHRIST, in these, and Foreign Parts of the World, and to apply to, and correspond with the Lords of Council and Session about this Design, and, if need be, to Address Her Majesty thereanent, and to Write to Presbyteries from time to time, to excite charitable persons in their Bounds, to contribute towards that Design, and Presbyteries to return Accounts of their Diligence in that matter to the said Commission: And further, its referred to the Commission to use their Endeavours, for putting in execution the 5th Act of the late Assembly, Intituled, Act anent a School in every Parish and a Contribution thereanent, As also the 8th Act of that same Assembly, Intituled, Act for suppressing of *Popery*, and preventing the growth thereof, and likewise the 15th Act of that Assembly, Intituled, Act against Innovations in the Worship of GOD.

10. That the Commission have a special respect to the 9th Act of the General Assembly 1703, concerning the Planting of Vacant Churches in the *North*, the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and supplying thereof with Ministers and Probationers, and the Commission are hereby impowered to proceed according to the said Act, in so far as they shall find it needful.

11. That the said Commission receive and consider any Representations or References, that shall be made to them by Presbyteries, and others concerned, about large and spacious Parishes, and use all Means proper to them for obtaining new Erections in such Parishes, or Stipends to collegiat Ministers in the same.

12. Seing there is not a full Report made to this Assembly, concerning the Libraries, Irish Bibles, Psalm Books and Catechisms, and about the State of the Church in the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and the remaining Idolatrous, Paganish and Popish Superstitious Customs in some places there, The General Assembly recommends to this Commission, to prosecute the Instructions given thereanent by the Assembly anno 1706 to their Commission, and to use all means in their power, for extirpating these Idolatrous and Superstitious Practices, and to take care, that the Charges of any, who have been

been employed about the same, be reimbursed out of the Money given by Her Majesty for these ends.

13. The General Assembly hereby impowers their Commission to give all due Assistance to the several Universities and Colledges, when any Minister is called to any Office therein, and to receive Appeals and References, and finally to determine in the same.

X.

Act and Recommendation concerning Ministerial Visitation of Families.

At Edinburgh, April 27 1708. Sess. 13. & ult.

THE General Assembly finding that Overtures concerning the Ministerial Visitation of Families, have been transmitted to the several Presbyteries within this National Church, for their Opinions thereanent, and that the plurality of the Presbyteries who returned their Opinions about the same, have consented to the passing of these Overtures in manner aftermentioned: And the General Assembly judging that what is therein proposed, may be of great use to the Ministers of the Gospel, tho not as binding Rules, yet as an help to them when they go about that necessary Work of Family Visitation: Therefore this General Assembly did Unanimously, and hereby do Recommend the same as such to the several Ministers of this National Church. The Tenor whereof follows.

Seing for the faithful Discharge of Ministers Work, they ought, beside what is Incumbent to them in the publick Congregation, to take special care and inspection of the particular Persons and Families, under their Oversight and Charge, In order to which, it hath been the laudable custom of this Church, at least once a year, if the largeness of the Parish Bodily inability in the Minister, or other such like causes, do not hinder, for Ministers to visit all the Families in their Parish, and oftner, if the Paroch be small, and they be able to set about it.

For the more uniform and succesful management of which Work, although in regard of the different circumstances of some Parishes, Families and Persons, much of this Work, and the management thereof, must be left to the Discretion and Prudence of Ministers, in their Respective oversights, yet these following Advices are offered and overtur'd as helps in the management thereof, that it may not be done in a slight and overly manner.

1. First of all, it seems needful, that ere a Minister set out to this Work, he should Labour to have his own heart in a suitable frame for it, by exciting in himself the Love of God,

and the desire of the Salvation of his People's Souls, and the sense of the weight of the Charge given him to watch for Souls, as one who must give an account, and of the difficulty of this part of his Work in particular: For perhaps it may be found no less difficult to apply to particular Families, and persons therein, teaching and warning every one, than it is to dispense the Word in common in the publick-Congregation.

2. That such a time in the year be chosen for such Ministerial Visitation, as the Families whom he visits may be best at leisure to meet with him, when they may be expected at Home, and least Incumbered with Affairs: And it were fit, that when a Minister designs to visit any part of his Parish, Intimation thereof should be made, either in publick from the Pulpit, or some other way, that they may order their Affairs so, that he may have opportunity to meet with them at Home.

3. Its fit when a Minister designs to visit any part of the Parish, that he be accompanied with the Elder of the Bounds, and that before they go forth to the Work, they may confer together concerning the State and Condition of the Persons and Families of these Bounds, that the Minister may be able to speak the more suitably to their condition, and as may be most for Edification.

4. When they enter a House or Family, after a short account of the Design of the Visit, and expression of their Wishes and Desires, for the Blessing of God upon the Family, and that above all their Souls may prosper, it were fit to take an account of the Names of the Family, Parents, Children and Servants, and to enquire for Testificats from them, who are lately come to the Parish, and to mark them in their Book or Roll for Catechising, and to take notice who can Read, and of the Age of Children, when capable to be Catechised.

5. After the Minister has got an account of the Persons dwelling in the Family, he may speak to them all in general of the necessity of Regeneration, and the advantages of serious Religion and Godliness, of Piety towards God, and Justice and Charity towards Man.

6. And next more particularly to the Servants of their Duty, to fear and serve GOD, and to be Dutiful, Faithful and Obedient Servants, and of the Promises made to such, commending to them the Reading of the Scriptures as they can, and Prayer in secret, and Love and concord among themselves, and in particular a Holy Care of Sanctifying the Lords Day.

7. The Minister may apply his Discourse to the Children, as they are capable, with Affectionate Seriousness, shewing them

them the advantage of Knowing, Loving, Seeking, and Serving GOD, and remembering their Creator and Redeemer in the Days of their Youth, and Honouring their Parents, and to mind them how they were dedicat to God in Baptism, and when of Age, and fit, and after due Instruction of the nature of the Covenant of Grace, and the Seals thereof, to excite them to engage themselves personally to the Lord, and to desire and prepare for, and take the first opportunity they can, of partaking the Lords Super, to be especially careful, how they Communicat at first, much depending thereon, (and such of the Servants as are young, are to be Exhorted hereto in like manner) exciting them also to daily Reading of the Scriptures, and to secret Prayer, and Sanctifying the Lords Day.

8. After the Minister has spoken to Servants and Children, he should speak privatly to the Master and Mistress of the Family about their personal Duty toward God, and the care of their own Souls Salvation, and their obligation to promote Religion, and the Worship of God in their Family, and to restrain and punish Vice, and encourage Piety, and to be careful, that they and their House serve the Lord, and sanctify the Lords Day: And after this, it may be fit to Exhort Masters, to take care that God be Worshiped daily in the Family by Prayer and Pra se, and Reading of the Scriptures. *Secundo*, Concerning the behaviour, and Conversation of the Servants and their Duty towards God and Man, and how they attend the Worship of God in the Family, how they attend the publick Worship on the Lords Day, and how they behave after Sermons, if any of them be piously inclined, if they make Conscience of Secret Prayer, and Reading the Scripture. *Tertio*. If there be Catechising and Instruſting the Ignorant and Weak, if due care be taken in Educating the Children, and particularly, if they be put timeously to School, and how they profite thereat, and how the Lords Day is spent after Sermons in the Family and in secret, in all which, the Minister may mix in suitable Directions, Encouragements, and Admonitions, as he shall see cause, and moſt for Edification.

9. It may be useful to enquire, who have Bibles, and to encourage them who are able to get a Bible of their own, and to make diligent and Religious use thereof, and to commend to Parents and Masters of Families, to have the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and other good Books, for Instruſtion in Faith and Manners.

10. If any be tainted with Errors, or given to Vice, they should be particularly dealt with, and spoken to, either privately, or before others, as may be moſt for Edification, and all are to be Exhorted, that are in the Family, to watch and Edify

Edify one another, and to carry toward any that walk disorderly, according to the Rule, *Matthew* 18. 15.

11. As the Minister is to exhort all in the Family to Peace and Love among themselves and their Neighbours; So if there be any Difference or Division, either in the Family or with the Neighbours, the Minister should endeavour to remove the same, and to make Peace, and to excite to follow it with all Men as far as possible.

12. It may be also enquired at those who received Tokens to Communicat the last Season for it, whither they have made use of them or not, and those who have communicat may be enquired privatly how they have profited thereby, and excited to remember and pay their Vows to the LORD.

13. If there be any in the Parish who keep not Church Communion with us; Whatever their Motives be, Ministers ought to deal with GOD for them, and with themselves, in such a Way as may be most proper to gain them, and exoner our own Consciences before GOD and His People, waiting if GOD peradventure will prevail with them: Who can tell, but our making them sensible of our tender Love and Affection to their persons, especially to their Souls, giving them all due Respect, and doing them all the Good we can, yet still discountenancing their Sin, may in the end be blessed of GOD for their Good. *Jude* 22, 23. *2 Tim.* 2, 24, 25.

Seing there is need for all this of much Prudence, Zeal for GOD, and Love to Souls and affectionat Seriousness, all this should be carried on with Dependence on GOD, and fervent Prayer to Him, both before a Minister set forth for such Work, and with the visited, as there shall be access to, and opportunity for it.

X I.

Act concerning Ministers and Probationers having the Irish Language, as to their Settlement.

April 27 1708. Sess. 13 & Ult.

THE General Assembly does hereby Discharge all the Presbyteries of this Church for the future, to concur with any Call or Design of Setling any Minister or Probationer having *Irish* in any Congregation in the *Lowlands*, unless such persons have been for an Year at least in the *Highlands* Supplying Vacancies, and no Call offered to them, and in that case Presbyteries are allowed to settle them, but with this condition, that so soon as a Call comes from any *Highland*.

land Parish, needing one having the *Irish* Language, that such persons shall be transported.

And the General Assembly hereby renews all former Acts made anent planting the *Highlands*, and refers it to their Commission to take care, that the same be put to due Execution.

X I I.

Act for the better observation of the Lords Day.

At Edinburgh April 27 1708. Sess. Ult.

FOrasmuchas Ministers from diverse parts of this National Church do represent, that there is a general Profanation of the LORDS Day by travelling thereupon, carrying Goods, driving Cattel, and other Abuses, to the great Scandal of Religion, and manifest breach of many good Laws, and Acts of Parliament and General Assemblies which the General Assembly of this Church being desirous to prevent, in so far as is competent to them; Therefore they did and hereby do appoint each Presbytry within this Church to Nominate two or three of their Number, to attend the Lords Commissioners of Justiciary, at their first Circuite that falls to be in their bounds, and to represent to their Lordships the profanation of the Lords Day by the forsaide wicked and sinful practices: And the General Assembly does seriously recommend to the saide Lords of Justiciary, to take such effectual courses, as they in their wisdom shall think fit, to restrain and punish the forsaide abuses, which the Assembly will acknowledge as a singular service done to GOD and His Church: And they do in the meantime enjoyn all the Ministers of this Church from their Pulpits to advertise their people among whom such practices are, of the great hazard their Immortal Souls are in by such courses, and that if they continue therein, there will be a necessity to represent to the Lords Justices all Transgressours of the Laws made against profanening of the Sabbath, and warn them to abstain therefrom in time coming; And further the General Assembly enjoyns Ministers and Church Judicatories to take care that former Acts of Assembly made against Breach of the Lords Day be observed, and not only to proceed with Ecclesiastick Censures, but to apply to the Justices of the Peace in their Bounds, and other Magistrates, for putting in Execution the good Laws already made against the Breach of the Sabbath and other Immoralities.

X I I I. *Act*

X I I I.

Act, Overture and Recommendation concerning Probationers, and Intrants to the Holy Ministry.

At Edinburgh, 27 April 1708. Sess. Ult.

THE General Assembly considering, that it is of great Importance and Advantage to this Church, that none be licenced to preach the Gospel as a Probationer, or be settled in the Ministry, but such as are duely qualified for that Holy Work; Therefore the General Assembly does seriously recommend to all Presbyteries the punctual observance of all the Acts already made concerning Probationers or Intrants to the Ministry: And farther the General Assembly transmits it as an Overture to the several Presbyteries, that, before any Presbytry receive any upon Tryal in order to his being licenced, they appoint three or four of their number privatly to converse with him, and to take Tryal of his knowledge in Divinity, and particularly the modern Controversies, and of what Sense and Impressions he has of Religion upon his own Soul, and that they make Report of their Diligence herein, before the Presbytry admit him to the probationary Tryals. And in regard there may be in Presbyteries different Sentiments as to Mens sufficiency for the Ministry, even upon the second Tryals, and that it cannot but weaken the hands of Intrants when their sufficiency is contested, even in the Presbytry that ordains them, and that it may occasion Division, if the Presbytry shall proceed to ordain, notwithstanding of the Protestations of their Brethren on the head of Insufficiency; The Assembly transmits as an Overture, that in this case the Presbytry shall refer the whole Affair to their respective Synods, and that the Synod shall appoint some of their number to examine *coram* the Intrants whose Abilities and Fitness are thus questioned, and give Directions to the Presbyteries in such cases as they shall see cause; And lastly the General Assembly recommends the strict observance of these things to the several Presbyteries untill the next Assembly, and appoints Presbyteries to be careful to give their Remarks thereupon, that the same may be turned into a standing Act and Constitution of this Church, if the Assembly shall see cause.

G

X I V. *Act*

*Recommendation for preventing Compeating Calls.**At Edinburgh 27 April 1708. Sess. Ult.*

THE General Assembly Recommends it to the several Presbyteries, to think upon some Overture to prevent Competitions of Calls; And in case of such Competitions, how to prevent their coming to Superior Judicatories: As also, an Overture to prevent the giving of a Second Call by a different Parish to any Minister or Probationer, during the dependance of a *prior* Call from another Parish or Parishes and process thereupon, and until the First Call and Process be discontinue.

X V.

*Act and Reference concerning the publishing a Version of the Scriptural Songs.**At Edinburgh April 27 1708. Sess. Ult.*

THE General Assembly do Instruct and Appoint their Commission, maturely to consider the printed Version of the Scripture Songs, with the Remarks of Presbyteries thereupon, and after Examination thereof they are hereby Authorised and Impowered to conclude and establish that Version, and to publish and emit it for the publick use of the Church as was formerly done on the like occasion, and when our Version of the Psalms was published in the year 1649; And seeing there are many Copies of the said Version lying on the Authors hand; Its recommended to Ministers and others to buy the same for privat use in the mean time.

X V I.

*Act concerning the Larger Overtures, about the method of Procedure in Church Judicatories.**At Edinburgh 27 April 1708. Sess. ult.*

THE General Assembly finding, that many Presbyteries have not as yet returned their Opinion about the large Overtures Concerning the Method of Procedure in Ecclesiastick

stick Judicatories, which were transmitted to them by former Assemblies: They do hereby of new require the several Presbyteries forthwith, to take these Overtures under their consideration, and send in their Opinions about the same to the Commission of this Assembly, to be by them prepared against the next Assembly.

XVII.

Act appointing the Dyet of the next General Assembly,

At Edinburgh, 27 April 1708. Sess. ult.

THE General Assembly of this Church is appointed to be holden at *Edinburgh* upon the Second *Thursday* of *April* 1709 years, being the Fourteenth Day of that Moneth.

This General Assembly was concluded with Prayer, Singing of the 124 Psalm throughout, and pronouncing of the Blessing.

*Collected and Extracted from the Records
of the General Assembly, by*

JOHN DUNDAS *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

A TABLE

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The Commissioner's and Moderator's Speeches at opening of the General Assembly are recorded. *Ibid.*

Committee for drawing an Answer to the Queen's most Gracious Letter, is appointed. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References and Appeals *Ibid.*

Committee for considering informal Commissions, censuring Absents, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace her Majesty's high Commissioner, &c. and taking up the Lists of Probationers and Students. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Commission Book and Synod Books to be produced to the next meeting of this Assembly for ordinary Business. *Ibid.*

Appointment of a Dyet for Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Dyet spent in Prayer. April 16. Sess. 2.

Nomination of some to preach before the Queens Commissioner, and supplying the vice of the Ministers of Edinburgh, who are Members of this Assembly. *Ibid.*

An Answer to the Queen's Gracious Letter, unanimously approved. April 17 Sess. 3.

Resolved, that there be an Address made to the Queen, and a Committee was named for drawing thereof. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed for the Affairs of this Church in the North, the Highlands and Islands, and for propagating Christian Knowledge, and suppressing Popery. *Ibid.*

Resolved, that a National Thanksgiving be appointed, and a Committee was named for drawing the Causes thereof. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed for receiving and classing Instructi-Presbyteries. *Ibid.*

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Committees nominate for revising the Registers of the Proceedings of the Synods of Merse and Teviotdale, Dumfrees, Galloway, Glasgow and Air, Perth and Stirline, Fife, Angus

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- gus* and *Merns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Caithness* and *Orkney*, and *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*. *Ibid.*
- A Letter from the Presbytry of *Zetland* read, and a Petition for the Parish of *Tingwall* there, concerning a new Erection, read and remitted to a Committee. *Ibid.*
- Petition for the Parish of *Delting* in *Zetland*, concerning their want of a Manse and School, remitted to the same Committee. *Ibid.*
- Petition for the Presbytry of *Zetland*, concerning new Erections, want of Manses, Gleebes, Schools &c. read and referred to the same Committee. *Ibid.*
- Petition for the Presbytry of *Caithness*, concerning their publick Debursements, read and remitted to the same Committee. *Ibid.*
- A Representation by the United Presbyteries of *Dundee* and *Forfar*, in favours of Mr. *Thomas Mitchell* Minister at *Abernite*, concerning the smallness of his Stipend, read and committed. *Ibid.*
- The Presbytry of the *North Isles* of *Orkney*, their Excuse for not sending a Commissioner to this Assembly sustained, as also the Excuse of some other absent Members. *April 19. Sess. 4.*
- The Commissioners from Presbyteries desired to give in to the Committee for the *North*, an account of their Diligence about the Proposals for propagating Christian Knowledge, and concerning *Popery* and Schools, and the opinion of Presbyteries concerning the larger Overtures for Discipline. *Ibid.*
- A Letter from Mr. *Alexander King* Minister at *Elgine*, declaring his Resolution to leave that place, Read and remitted to a Committee. *Ibid.*
- Act continuing Mr. *William Miller* Minister at *Meegle*, and refusing his Transportation either to *Dumfermling* or *Montrose*. *Ibid.*
- Nomination of Ministers to Preach before the Commissioner &c. *April 20. Sess. 5.*
- The Presbyteries of *Tain* and *Dornoch* their not sending Commissioners to this Assembly excused. *Ibid.*
- A Letter from the Marchioness of *Huntly*, craving that one Mr. *Alexander Mitchel* might be allowed to Preach at *Belly*, Read and remitted to a Committee. *Ibid.*
- The Commissioners from Presbyteries to this Assembly ordered to meet by their several Synods, and name a Committee for preparing the draught of a Commission and Instructions to be given by this Assembly, and naming the Persons to be on that Commission. *Ibid.*
- Recommendation to Synods and Presbyteries, to see to the Execution of the 5th and 8th Acts of the late Assembly, and

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to Record an account of their Diligence therein in their Books. *Ibid.*

Some Nominate to wait on Her Majestie's Commissioner and others in the Government for obtaining Proclamations for suppressing Immorality, and for encouraging the Design of propagating Christian Knowledge. *Ib.*

Mr. Patrick Stewart, and Mr. William Balnaves Probationers having *Irish*, ordered to be spoken to, anent their going to *Glenlivet* and *Strathdown*. *Ib.*

A Committee appointed to consider Representations made concerning the Intrusion of some Episcopal Ministers into Churches. *Ib.*

Committee for Revising the Synod Book of *Ross* and *Sutherland*. *Ib.*

Committee to consider what should be given to the Procurator for the Church, for his Service. *Ib.*

It having been Represented by the late Commission, and by the Presbytry of *Edinburgh*, that Mr. Samuel Semple Minister of the Gospel at *Libertoun*, had for several years made the History of this Church, from the first planting of Christianity to our Times, his particular Study, and Collected diverse valuable Manuscripts and Histories for that purpose: The General Assembly earnestly Recommended to him to proceed in that necessary Work: And desire Presbyteries, Universities and others, to give him all the Assistance and Information they can. *Ibid.*

Some Nominate to speak to Mr. Andrew Feiskine, concerning his Settlement at *Delsing* in *Zetland*. *Ib.*

Act approving of the Design of a new Erection at *Tingwal* in *Zetland*, and appointing the Procurator and Agents for the Church to prosecute the same. *Ib.*

Act approving of the Design of a new Erection at *Tell* and *Fetlar* in *Zetland*, and appointing the Procurator and Agents for the Church to prosecute the same. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agents for the Church, appointed to assist in procuring an Augmentation to the Stipend of Mr. David Dalrymple Minister at *Dundurcas*. *Ib.*

Recommendation to such Presbyteries as are deficient in bringing in their Contributions for Mr. Theodore Umphray late Episcopal Minister in *Zetland*, to send in the same to John Blair one of the Agents of the Church to be given to the said Mr. Theodore. *Ib.*

The Commissioners from Presbyteries having met each Synod a part, brought in the Names of the Persons to be on a Committee for drawing the Commission and Instructions, &c. and the Nomination being approved, the time of that Committee's Meeting was appointed. April 21. Sess. 6.

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The Moderator appointed to write an Answer to the Lady Marchioness of *Huntly's* Letter concerning Mr. *Mitchel* Intruder at *Belly*. *Ibid.*

Nomination of a Committee for propagating Christian Knowledge. *Ibid.*

Act unanimously allowing and appointing to Mr. *John Dundas* Procurator for the Church 600 *Merks* yearly for his Service in that Station, beside what he has as Clerk to the Assembly. *Ibid.*

Intimation to Mr. *Samuel Semple*, of the Recommendation to him, to proceed in writing an History of this Church, and he desired to take all necessary Advice for compleating the same, and to be careful that the Authoritys he founds upon be of good Credit; with a Reference to a Committee, and to the Commission about his Encouragement. *Ib.*

The Synod Books of *Lothian* and *Tweddale*, and *Glasgow* and *Air*, Revised and Attested in the usual manner, with some Advices. *Ibid.*

A Remit to the Committee for Overtures concerning Mr. *Neil Mackviccar*. *Ibid.*

The Synods of *Dumfrees*, *Galloway* and *Argyle*, Ordained to bring their Registers to the next General Assembly. *Ib.*

The Synod Book of *Stirling* and *Perth*, ordered to be Transcribed. *Ibid.*

These appointed by the last Assembly, to receive from the Earl of *Cromerty*, a Register of the General Assemblies of this Church, having Reported that his Lordship had delivered the same to them, commencing from the last of *December 1562*, and ending *27 April 1597*: This Assembly nominated some to return his Lordship Thanks for this Gift. *April 22. Sess. 7.*

References to the Commission about the Planting of *Dumfermling* and *Montross*, and ordering Encouraging Letters to be written to the Heritors, Magistrates and others concerned thereanent. *Ibid.*

Report of the Committee for informal Commissions, Absents, &c. Approven, several Absents Excused, and Letters ordered to be written to Presbyteries and Synods, desiring them to observe the Acts about sending Commissioners to Assemblies. *Ibid.*

Remit to a Committee, to consider a Reference concerning some Difficulties, about removing of Scandals which had arisen in *Kelso*, during the long Vacancy of that Paroch. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweddale*, in favours of Mr. *John Dalrymple* for providing a yearly Maintenance to him. *Ibid.* An

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An Address to the Queen brought in, and unanimously approved. *April 23. Sess. 8.*

The Synod Books of *Angus* and *Mernes, Aberdeen, Murray* and *Fife* being revised, were attested in the usual manner, with some Advices. *Ibid.*

A Letter of Thanks ordered to be written to some in and about *Inverness*, who are Benefactors to the Library there. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Committee for Overtures to consider the draught of an Act brought in concerning a National Thanksgiving. *Ibid.*

The Synod Book of *Orkney* being Revised, was attested with some Advices. *April 23. Post Merid. Sess. 9.*

The Synods of *Ross* and *Orkney* appointed to correspond together. *Ibid.*

The Register of the Proceedings of the last Commission being Revised was attested according to the 6th Act of the Assembly 1706, with this Remark, that there are such Irregularities in the Commissions procedure, in taking the Sentence of Deposition off Mr. *John Hepburn*, that the Assembly do not approve the Commissions taking off that Sentence; And enjoin that in time coming Commissions strictly observe the Acts of Assembly, and not transgress the same upon any pretence whatsoever, and Impower the Commission of this Assembly, to enquire into what has been Mr. *Hepburns* Deportment, since he was Reponed, and to proceed as they shall see cause. *Ibid.*

An Old Register of the Synods of *Angus* and *Fife*, being found out by the deceased Mr. *John Bell* at *Gladsmure*, was delivered up to the Clerk of the Synod *Fife*, in presence of the Assembly. *Ib.*

The Synod Book of *Ross* and *Sutherland* ordered to be written over. *Ib.*

An Act anent a National Thanksgiving being brought in from the Committee for Overtures was Unanimously Approven. *April 24, Sess. 10.*

A Committee Nominate to think of Methods for planting the Vacancies in the University of *St. Andrews*. *Ib.*

Act laying aside two competing Calls of some in the Parish of *Crawfordjohn* to Mr. *John Wilson* and Mr. *Matthew Wood* Probationers, and Ordaining that Parish to proceed to the calling of a Third Person, and appointing a Letter to be written to the Earl of *Selkirk* thereanent. *April 24 P. M. Sess. 11.*

Act in favours of the Presbytries within the Synod of *Orkney* concerning their Attendance on that Synod and General Assembly, and Impowering the Commission to send a Committee thither, as also appointing a Letter to be written to Mr. *Robert Douglass* Brother to the Earl of *Mortoun*

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- concerning the repairing of Kirks and Manſes, and Erecting of Schools there, &c. *Ib.*
- Letters appointed to be written to the Heretors of *Tingwall* and *Tell* concerning the new Erections there. *Ib.*
- The Committee to be ſent to *Zetland*, *Orkney* and *Caithneſs* appointed to viſit the Bounds of *Rofs* and *Sutherland* alſo. *Ibid.*
- Mr. *Andrew Friſkine* ſent back to *Zetland*, and the Presbytry there deſired to do all they can for his conveniency and comfortable Settlement at *Delting*, and a Reference is made to the Commiſſion in his Favours, and likewise a Letter Ordered to be Written to the Earl of *Mortoun*. *Ibid.*
- Act Recommending to the Presbytry of *Skye* to Ordain *Alexander Buchan* to be Miniſter at *St. Kilda*, and to ſend ſome of their Number thither to endeavour the ſuppreſſing of the *Pagan* and Superſtitious Customs uſed in that place, with a Reference to the Commiſſion for procuring him a ſetled Maintenance there. *Ib.*
- A Committee named for conſidering the State of the Bounds of the Pariſhes of *Aberlour* and *Abernethie*. *Ib.*
- A Complaint againſt Mr. *John Mackmillan* referred to the Committee for Overtures. *Ib.*
- Reference to the Commiſſion concerning the Grievances of the Presbyteries in the Synod of *Rofs* and *Sutherland*. *April 26. Seſſ. 12.*
- Act Ordaining the Call of the Pariſh of *Bothwell* to Mr. *George Crawford* to be let fall, with a Recommendation to theſe concerned to call ſome other fit perſon, and a Letter appointed to be written to her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Hamilton* thereanent. *Ib.*
- The Queens Commiſſioner did acquaint the Aſſembly, that Her Majeſty did graciously accept of the Aſſemblies Answer to Her Letter. *Ib.*
- The Aſſembly humbly deſires Her Majeſties Commiſſioner, to lay before Her Majeſty the Caſe of the Univerſity of *St. Andrews*, in order to the providing the Vacancies there with fit and qualified Miniſters. *Ib.*
- Referred to the Commiſſion to conſider the circumſtances of of Mr. *Alexander King* Miniſter at *Elgine*, and his Letter to the Aſſembly thereanent. *Ib.*
- Reference to the Commiſſion concerning the Scandals in *Kello* during the Vacancy there. *Ib.*
- Some Nominate to wait on Sir *James Stewart* Her Majeſties Advocat now Sick, to teſtify the Aſſemblies Senſe of his good Services done to this Church. *April 27. Seſſ. 13. & ult.*
- Reference to the Commiſſion to apply for a Proclamation in the Queen's Name againſt Immorality, as alſo to uſe their

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endeavours for getting a Law changeing Mercats held on *Mundays* and *Saturdays*, to some other Days of the Week. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to enquire into the Reasons, why Proclamations concerning Fasts and Thanksgivings come not timely to Ministers hands, and to endeavour to have this Neglect amended. *Ib.*

Act against the Seditious Doctrine and Practices of *Mr. John Mackmillan*, declaring the same contrary to the Principles of this Church, with a Reference to the Commission to proceed against him as they shall see cause.

The Procurator and Agents for the Church, appointed to concur with Synods and Presbyteries when desired by them in all proper measures for preserving the Patrimony of the Church, and recovering what thereof has been already dilapidated. *Ib.*

Act concerning the Old Registers of this Church, appointing some to Revise the same with a Recommendation to Universities, Presbyteries, and particular persons, to send in to the Commission accounts of any *Memoires Manuscripts* or Papers, that may help to Document the said Register. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commission for planting the Vaccancies in the Churches of *Edinburgh*. *Sess. ult.*

Reference to the Commission concerning the planting the Parish of *Colace*. *Ibid.*

Commission to *Mr. William Carstairs* Moderator, *Mr. John Stirling* and *Mr. Robert Baillie* Ministers, and *David Earl of Glasgow* Ruling Elder, to wait upon the Queen, and testify the Assemblies firm Loyalty to Her Majesty, and to Congratulate Her upon the Merciful Deliverance of Her Dominions from the late threatned Invasion from France, and to Thank Her Majesty for Her Gracious Promise, to cause put in Execution the Laws against Popery, Prophaneness, and other Disorders; with a Reference to the Commission, to give the saids Persons Instructions. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of a Process concerning a Call of the Parish of *Aughtergaven* to *Mr. Patrick Stewart*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of a Petition for sending *Mr. James Cuthbert* Probationer to the Province of *Murray*, and concerning the adjusting of the Work and oversight of the three Ministers of *Inverness*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commission concerning *Mr. John Mackenzie* at *Kingussie*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commission concerning the Removal of *Mr. Gideon Guthrie* Intruder from *Fetteresso*, and the Legal Planting thereof. *Ib.*

Act continuing *Margaret Gib* Relict of the deceased *George Mosman* in possession of her deceased Husbands Office of Printer to this Church, during the Assemblies pleasure. *Ib.*

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- Reference to the Commission of a Petition of *Janet Livingston* concerning the Printing of her Grand-Father Mr. *John Livingston* his Notes on the Bible. Ib.
- Reference to the Commission to give their assistance to Mr. *Thomas Mitchel* Minister at *Abernite*, in procuring an Augmentation to his Stipend. Ib.
- Reference to the Commission of the Petition of Mr. *Alexander Mackbain* Schoolmaster at *Fortwilliam*, concerning the payment of his Salary. Ib.
- Recommendation to such Presbyteries as are deficient in paying in their Contributions for *Duncan Cassie*, to send in the same to *Nicol Spence* as soon as they can. Ib.
- Reference to the Commission concerning the Parish of *Longnewtown*. Ib.
- The Consideration of some Letters from Presbyteries in the Synod of *Argyle*, as also a Letter from the Laird of *Calder* concerning *Arderseere* and other things therein mentioned, referred to the Commission. Ib.
- A Letter ordered to be written to the Synod of *Argyle*, concerning the Translation of the Confession of Faith in the *Irish* Language. Ib.
- Reference to the Commission concerning Mr. *Daniel Bain* Probationer. Ib.
- Recommendation to the several Synods and Presbyteries for a Charitable Supplie to *Edward Wallace* Writer to the Signet. Ibid.
- Reference to the Commission of some Overtures concerning Bursaries. Ib.
- A List of Probationers for the Holy Ministry and Students of Theology brought in and Read, and ordered to be Recorded. Ib.
- Reference to the Commission to call for a Report of the Diligence of the Committee for propagating Christian Knowledge from time to time. Ib.
- Protestation Mr. *Robert Rowan* against *William Agnew* of *Castlemig* for not insisting in his Appeal. Ib.
- Intimation to these concerned in the late Kings Gift of the Bishops Rents Cropt Ninty to meet thereanent. Ib.
- Intimated that *John Spruel* Merchant in *Glasgow* is Exonerated as to his Collection of a Contribution for Redemption of some Prisoners in *Barbary*. Ib.
- Committee for Revising the Minuts of this Assembly, and giving orders about printing the publick Acts thereof. Ib.
- The Moderators Speech at the closing of the Assembly to the Members, and to His Grace the Queens Commissioner. Ib.
- His Grace Her Majesties Commissioner, His Speech to the General Assembly, after they had gone through their Work.

F I N I S.

Nota, The time of the Meeting of the following Committee, not being appointed by the General Assembly, but left to the Commission these Acts are not insert in their due place, but here.

Acts concerning the Proposals about propagating Christian Knowledge, Suppressing Popery, Erecting Schools, &c.

April 20 1708, post merid. Sess. 5.

THE General Assembly does resolve, that they will appoint a Committee to receive Reports from Presbyteries; how the 5th Act of the General Assembly 1707, entituled Act anent Schools in every Parish, and the 8th Act of that same Assembly, entituled Act for suppressing Popery, and preventing the growth thereof have been obeyed, and to receive Reports from the several Presbyteries as to what Advance is made in their bounds, in the Subscriptions towards the design of propagating Christian Knowledge, and in the Contributions of the quarter *Centesima* for encouragement of such as shall be sent in mission to these places where Popery abounds; And the Assembly earnestly recommends to, and enjoins the several Synods and Presbyteries to see to the punctual Execution of these two Acts, and do ordain an account of their Diligence herein to be insert in their Books, and that Committee when named, are hereby impowered to act and manage in these Matters, under the Inspection, and by the direction of the Commission to be appointed by this Assembly.

April 21 1708, post Meridiem Sess. 6.

THE General Assembly finding, that there is no Committee yet named to receive in Reports from Presbyteries, of the Advances made in the Subscriptions for propagating Christian Knowledge, and other ends mentioned in yesternights Resolve, They do now Nominat and Appoint for these Ends the persons following viz. The Right Reverend Masters, William Carstairs Moderator, George Meldrum, George Hamilton, William Wisheart, John Stirling, James Ramsay at Kelso, James Hadow, John Bonnar, John Moncreif, Thomas Wilkie in Cannongate, William Mitchel there, Neil Mackviccar, John Anderson at St. Andrews, George Barclay, David Blair, Patrick Cuming, James Heart, Robert Horseburgh, George Turnbull, William Moncreif at Largo, and John Brown Ministers. The Lord President, Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Pollock, Lord Tillicultry, Lord Minto,

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Lord Forglan, Lord Bonhill, Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Sir James Steuart Her Majesties Advocat, Sir Samuel McLellan Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir James Campbell of Aberuchel, Lieutenant Colonel John Erskine of Carnock, Sir Walter Pringle, Mr. William Brodie, Mr. Walter Steuart, Mr. James Gellie Advocats. Sir James Smollet of Bonhill, Sir George Home of Kello, Sir Hugh Cunninghame of Craigend, Walter Steuart of Pardivanè, and John Alexander of Blackhouse, Ruling Elders.

At Edinburgh 28 April 1708, post Meridiem.

THE Commission of the General Assembly taking to consideration what is referred to them in their Instructions by the late General Assembly, concerning the propagating of Christian Knowledge, and finding that diverse of their number and some others were named by the said Assembly for that end, and for other Affairs specified in two Acts of the same Assembly; But the Times and Places of their Meetings not having been concerted, this Commission appoints the same to be within the Assembly House the last Thursday of each Moneth, at ten of the clock in the Forenoon, and oftner as the said Committee shall think fit, and they are from time to time to report an account of their Diligence to this Commission.

